

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-76 (Cancelled).

77. (New) Apparatus, comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a cavity mould movable along a path between an open position in which said punch and said cavity mould are distanced apart from each other to receive a dose of plastics therebetween, and a closed position in which said punch and said cavity mould are aligned and interact to form an item by pressing said dose, said punch being kept at a height which is not greater than the height of said cavity mould along said path, the apparatus further comprising a supporting arrangement for supporting said dose, said supporting arrangement extending externally of said cavity mould for supporting said dose between said punch and said cavity mould in said open position.
78. (New) Apparatus according to claim 77, wherein said punch is placed under said cavity mould.
79. (New) Apparatus according to claim 77, wherein said punch and said cavity mould are placed on a common horizontal plane.
80. (New) Apparatus according to claim 77, wherein said cavity mould is movable

between said closed position and said open position.

81. (New) Apparatus according to claim 77, wherein said punch is movable between said closed position and said open position.
82. (New) Apparatus according to claim 77, wherein said moulding unit is mounted on a rotating carousel.
83. (New) Apparatus according to claim 77, wherein said supporting arrangement is driven by a cam arrangement.
84. (New) Apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said supporting arrangement is driven by a cam arrangement.
85. (New) Apparatus according to claim 83, wherein said cam arrangement is fixed to said punch.
86. (New) Apparatus according to claim 83, wherein said cam arrangement is fixed to said cavity mould.
87. (New) Apparatus according to claim 84, wherein said cam arrangement is fixed to said carousel.

88. (New) Apparatus according to claim 77, wherein said supporting arrangement comprises a pair of rods connected to a respective pair of levers hinged at a base body, each lever of said pair of levers being connected to the other lever of said pair of levers by a connection rod.
89. (New) Apparatus according to claim 77, wherein said supporting arrangement can be oscillated by a gear device.
90. (New) Apparatus according to claim 77, wherein said supporting arrangement comprises a supporting member which is movable between a dose-receiving configuration in which said supporting member is so arranged as to retain said dose and a dose-delivering configuration in which said supporting member is so arranged as to deliver said dose to said moulding unit.
91. (New) Apparatus according to claim 83, wherein said supporting arrangement comprises a supporting member which is movable between a dose-receiving configuration in which said supporting member is so arranged as to retain said dose and a dose-delivering configuration in which said supporting member is so arranged as to deliver said dose to said moulding unit.
92. (New) Apparatus according to claim 91, wherein said cam arrangement has a first portion for driving said supporting member and a further supporting member in said dose-receiving configuration and a second portion for driving said supporting

member and said further supporting member in a dose-pinching configuration in which said dose is pinched between said supporting member and said further supporting member, said second portion being adjacent to said first portion.

93. (New) Apparatus according to claim 91, wherein said supporting member can be oscillated parallelly to an axis along which said punch and said cavity mould are movable.
94. (New) Apparatus according to claim 91, wherein said supporting member is made from porous material.
95. (New) Apparatus according to claim 91, wherein said supporting member comprises a tubular supporting member having holes through which a fluid can be injected toward said dose.
96. (New) Apparatus according to claim 91, wherein said supporting member is made from thermally substantially non-conductive material.
97. (New) Apparatus according claim 91, wherein said supporting member is substantially L-shaped.
98. (New) Apparatus according to claim 91, wherein said supporting member is coated by a substantially non stick material.

99. (New) Apparatus according to claim 77, wherein said supporting arrangement is mounted on said punch.
100. (New) Apparatus according claim 77, wherein said supporting arrangement is mounted on said cavity mould.
101. (New) Apparatus according to claim 77, wherein said supporting arrangement is actuated along said path independently of said cavity mould and/or said punch.
102. (New) Apparatus according to claim 84, wherein said supporting arrangement is mounted on said carousel.
103. (New) Apparatus according to claim 77, and further comprising a dose-delivering mouth of an extruder interposed between said punch and said cavity mould in said open position.
104. (New) Apparatus according to claim 103, wherein a severing arrangement co-operates with said dose-delivering mouth (so as to sever said dose from said extruder.
105. (New) Apparatus according to claim 104, wherein said severing arrangement is mounted on said moulding unit.

106. (New) Apparatus according to claim 104, wherein said severing arrangement is rotatable around a respective axis.
107. (New) Apparatus according to claim 106, wherein said severing arrangement is driven by an independent motor unit.
108. (New) Apparatus according to claim 101, and further comprising a dose-delivering mouth of an extruder interposed between said punch and said cavity mould in said open position.
109. (New) Apparatus according to claim 108, wherein said severing arrangement is provided with a blade connected to said supporting member.
110. (New) Apparatus according claim 104, wherein said severing arrangement is provided with a knife mounted on said punch or on said cavity mould.
111. (New) Apparatus according to claim 77, wherein in said open position in which said punch and said cavity mould are distanced apart from each other a plurality of doses of plastics is placed between said punch and said cavity mould, so as to interact when said punch and said cavity mould are brought in said closed position.

112. (New) Apparatus, comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a cavity mould movable between an open position in which said punch and said cavity mould are distanced apart from each other to receive a dose of plastics therebetween, and a closed position in which said punch and said cavity mould interact to form an item by pressing said dose, a supporting arrangement extending externally of said cavity mould for supporting said dose between said punch and said cavity mould in said open position, wherein said supporting arrangement can be oscillated by a movable cam arrangement.
113. (New) Apparatus according to claim 112, wherein said cam arrangement is fixed relative to said punch.
114. (New) Apparatus according to claim 112, wherein said cam arrangement is fixed relative to said cavity mould.
115. (New) Apparatus, comprising a pair of rods for supporting a dose of plastics between a punch and a cavity mould, said pair of rods being connected to a respective pair of levers hinged at a base body, each lever of said pair of levers being connected to the other lever of said pair of levers by a connection rod.
116. (New) Apparatus according to claim 115, and further comprising a cam arrangement associated to a lever of said pair of levers to move said pair of levers between a dose-receiving position in which a dose of plastics is received

on said pair of rods and a dose delivering-position in which said dose is delivered between said punch and said cavity mould.

117. (New) Apparatus according to claim 116, wherein said connection rod is hinged to an end portion of said lever and to an intermediate portion of a further lever of said pair of levers.
118. (New) Apparatus, comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a cavity mould movable along an axis between an open position in which said punch and said cavity mould are distanced apart from each other to receive a dose of plastics therebetween, and a closed position in which said punch and said cavity mould interact to form an item by pressing said dose, a supporting arrangement for supporting said dose between said punch and said cavity mould and having a member which can be oscillated parallelly to said axis.
119. (New) Apparatus according to claim 118, wherein said axis is substantially horizontal and said member is oscillatable on a substantially horizontal plane.
120. (New) Apparatus according to claim 118, wherein said member is fixed to a lever capable of actuating said member, between said open position and said closed position, said lever comprising a first arm substantially parallel to said member and a second arm joining said first and said member.

121. (New) Apparatus according to claim 120, wherein said second arm is substantially perpendicular to said first arm.
122. (New) Apparatus, comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a cavity mould movable between an open position in which said punch and said cavity mould are distanced apart from each other to receive a dose of plastics therebetween, and a closed position in which said punch and said cavity mould interact to form an item by pressing said dose, a supporting arrangement for supporting said dose between said punch and said cavity mould, wherein said supporting arrangement can be oscillated by a gear device.
123. (New) Apparatus according to claim 122, wherein said moulding unit is mounted on a carousel rotatable around an axis, said gear device comprising a first gear device associated to said moulding unit and a second gear device stationary with respect to said carousel.
124. (New) Apparatus according to claim 123, wherein said supporting arrangement comprises a supporting member oscillatable on a plane substantially perpendicular to said axis.
125. (New) Apparatus, comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a cavity mould movable along an axis between an open position in which said punch and said cavity mould are distanced apart from each other to receive a dose of plastics

therebetween, and a closed position in which said punch and said cavity mould interact to form an item by pressing said dose, a supporting arrangement for supporting said dose between said punch and said cavity mould, said supporting arrangement comprising a supporting member of porous material.

126. Apparatus, comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a cavity mould movable along an axis between an open position in which said punch and said cavity mould are distanced apart from each other to receive a dose of plastics therebetween, and a closed position in which said punch and said cavity mould interact to form an item by pressing said dose, a supporting arrangement for supporting said dose between said punch and said cavity mould, said supporting arrangement comprising a tubular supporting member having holes through which air can be injected toward said dose.

127. (New) Apparatus, comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a cavity mould movable along an axis between an open position in which said punch and said cavity mould are distanced apart from each other to receive a dose of plastics therebetween, and a closed position in which said punch and said cavity mould interact to form an item by pressing said dose, a supporting arrangement for supporting said dose between said punch and said cavity mould, said supporting arrangement comprising a supporting member of thermally substantially non-conductive material.

128. (New) Apparatus, comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a cavity mould movable between an open position in which said punch and said cavity mould are distanced apart from each other to receive a dose of plastics therebetween, and a closed position in which said punch and said cavity mould interact to form an item by pressing said dose, a dose-delivering mouth of an extruder being interposed between said punch and said cavity mould in said open position.
129. (New) Apparatus according to claim 128, wherein a severing arrangement co-operates with said dose-delivering mouth so as to sever said dose from said extruder.
130. (New) Apparatus according to claim 129, wherein said severing arrangement is mounted on said moulding unit.
131. (New) Apparatus according to claim 129, wherein said severing arrangement is rotatable around a respective axis.
132. (New) Apparatus according to claim 131, wherein said severing arrangement is driven by an independent motor unit.
133. (New) Apparatus according to claim 129, wherein said severing arrangement is provided with a blade connected to a supporting member of a supporting arrangement for supporting said dose between said punch and said cavity mould.

134. (New) Apparatus according to claim 129, wherein said severing arrangement is provided with a knife mounted on said punch or on said cavity mould.
135. (New) Apparatus, comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a cavity mould movable between an open position in which said punch and said cavity mould are distanced apart from each other and receive a plurality of doses of plastics therebetween, and a closed position in which said punch and said cavity mould interact to form an item by pressing said plurality of doses.
136. (New) Apparatus, comprising a moulding unit having a punch and a cavity mould one of which serving as a receiving member for receiving a dose of plastics in an open position, said moulding unit being movable along a path between said open position and a closed position in which said punch and said cavity mould interact to form an item by pressing said dose, a channel system being provided to surround said receiving member in said open position along said path.
137. (New) Apparatus according to claim 136, and comprising a further channel which surrounds a transferring device for transferring said dose from an extruder mouth to said moulding unit, said further channel extending along a further path leading towards said path.
138. (New) Apparatus according to claim 135, and further comprising a supporting

arrangement extending externally of said moulding unit and interposed between said punch and said cavity mould for supporting said dose.

139. (New) Apparatus according to claim 138, wherein said supporting arrangement comprises a supporting member of porous material.

140. (New) Apparatus according to claim 138, wherein said supporting arrangement comprises a supporting member having holes through which fluid can be injected toward said dose.

141. (New) Apparatus according to claim 138, wherein said supporting arrangement comprises a supporting member of thermally substantially non-conductive material.

142. (New) Apparatus, comprising a pair of rods for supporting a dose of plastics between a punch and a cavity mould, said pair of rods being actuatable by a cam arrangement having a first portion for driving said rods in a dose-receiving position in which said dose is received above said rods and a second portion for driving said rods in a dose-pinching position in which said dose is pinched between said rods, said second portion being adjacent to said first portion.

143. (New) Apparatus according to claim 142, wherein said first portion and said second portion are arranged in sequence along a direction, said punch and/or

said cavity mould being movable along said direction to open or close said moulding unit.

144. (New) Apparatus according to claim 142, wherein said cam arrangement comprises a third portion for driving said pair of rods in a dose-delivering position in which said dose is delivered between said punch and said cavity mould.

145. (New) Apparatus according to claim 144, wherein said first portion, said second portion and said third portion are arranged in sequence along said direction.

146. (New) A mould compression item comprising a body formed from a plurality of plastic materials having different properties and/or appearance from one another.

147. (New) An item according to claim 146, wherein said plurality of plastic materials comprises first plastic material and second plastic material.

148. (New) An item according to claim 147, wherein said first and second plastic materials define adjacent portions of a container closure.

149. (New) An item according to claim 148, wherein said adjacent portions are arranged one inside another in said container closure.

150. (New) An item according to claim 148, wherein said adjacent portions are arranged side by side in said container closure.
151. (New) An item according to claim 150, wherein a hinge is obtained in one of said adjacent portions.
152. (New) Method, comprising delivering a plurality of doses of plastics to a moulding unit and pressing together said plurality of doses between a punch and a cavity mould.
153. (New) Method for compression moulding of plastics items, comprising forming a dose of plastic material in a moulding unit by bringing together a punch and a cavity mould, wherein before said bringing together, said dose is propelled towards either said punch, or said cavity mould.
154. (New) Method for compression moulding of plastics items, comprising forming a dose of plastics in a moulding unit by bringing together a punch and a cavity mould, and further comprising, before said bringing together, resting said dose on a pair of rods, moving said rods close to one another so as to pinch said dose, and delivering said dose from said rods to said moulding unit, wherein between said resting and said moving said dose remains in contact with said rods.